

Activity I

Find Someone Who

DESCRIPTION

Students use a checklist as they walk around the room trying to find a person who has a certain characteristic. When students find “someone who drives a truck” or “someone who was born at home,” they write that person’s name on their checklist of paper and move on to the next person with the hope that that person meets one of the other characteristics on the master list. *The goal is to meet and talk to as many people as possible within the time limit in order to put one name by each of the characteristics.*

NEEDED

1. A piece of paper listing 15 to 20 characteristics.
2. A copy of the paper for each student.

PREPARATION STEPS

1. Prepare 15 to 20 characteristics using vocabulary that your students are familiar with. Since this is a fluency activity, the purpose can be to review or recycle vocabulary and perhaps even learn one or two new words, but the main purpose of this activity is to get students talking for a purpose and, thus, limit the difficulty of the language used. As with all fluency activities, aim for a level below your students’ actual proficiency level.
2. Try to vary the questions so that it will be easy to find a person for some characteristics but not so easy for others. Easy questions that most people can answer yes to include “find someone who has more than one brother,” “find someone who watches TV at night,” or “find someone who likes to eat fish.” It is usually harder to find the one or two people who can answer yes to “find someone who is an only child,” “find someone who was born in December,” or “find someone who usually reads the newspaper every morning.” Mix up the easy and difficult characteristics on your sheet.

■ IN CLASS

1. Announce that the class is going to do a brief interview activity in which each student will ask people a question to find out if they do a certain activity. The goal is to ask everyone in class until students find someone who does that activity or has that characteristic.
2. On the board, write two examples of characteristics from your sheet. Tell students not to give the answer right now. Ask them to think how they would answer if someone asked them right now, "Excuse me. Do you read the newspaper every morning?" What would their answer options be? (*Yes, I do* OR *No, I don't.*)
3. Hold up a copy of the checklist of characteristics. When students find someone who says yes to one of their questions, they should write that person's name on their checklist sheet and go on to the next question with another person.
4. Important: A student can write a person's name only once. Thus, if Maria reads the paper every day and she is an only child, no student can write Maria's name twice on the checklist.
5. Pass out the papers. Ask everyone to stand up. Begin the activity. You, as the teacher, should participate as well.

■ CAVEATS AND FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

1. This is a great icebreaker for the beginning of the course. It's also a good way for you to learn your students' names and something personal about each of them.
2. You might decide to give a prize to the student who completes the activity first or within the time limit. There is a caveat to offering a prize. When the activity is timed, sometimes students get so focused on winning the prize that they just start writing in people's names.
3. As a follow up, when everyone is seated again, ask students to introduce someone and say something about that person. For example, Maria could say, "Everyone, I'd like to introduce Joseph to you. [Joseph raises his hand so everyone knows who he is.] I found out today that Joseph has two dogs."

Example of Find Someone Who

1. _____ Find someone who has a pet.
2. _____ Find someone who has at least one grandparent still alive.
3. _____ Find someone who takes showers instead of baths.
4. _____ Find someone who ate at McDonalds® in the last week.
5. _____ Find someone who drives to school every day.
6. _____ Find someone who owns more than two watches.
7. _____ Find someone who was born south of the equator.
8. _____ Find someone who drank coffee at breakfast today.
9. _____ Find someone who has visited more than five countries.
10. _____ Find someone who speaks more than two languages.
11. _____ Find someone who was born in January.
12. _____ Find someone who has visited Canada.
13. _____ Find someone who is good at math.
14. _____ Find someone who does not like broccoli.
15. _____ Find someone who is an only child.
16. _____ Find someone who likes rice better than potatoes.
17. _____ Find someone who likes pizza.
18. _____ Find someone who likes blue better than red or orange.
19. _____ Find someone who was born in August.
20. _____ Find someone who can swim well.

Source: Keith S. Folse.